

# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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**Wednesday, 11 August 1999**

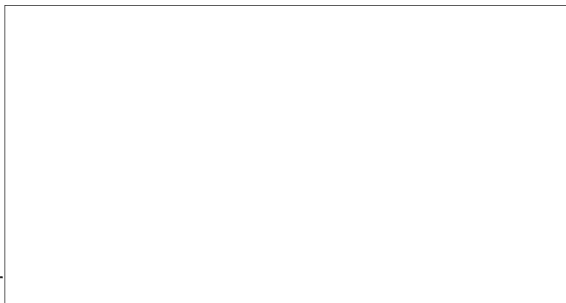
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## AFRICA

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Sudan:

### Denying Chemical Weapons Investigation

Khartoum has backtracked from earlier statements welcoming a UN investigation into allegations of chemical weapons (CW) use in southern Sudan and is demanding a quid pro quo US agreement to a UN investigation of the strike on the al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, according to Sudanese media reports. Sudan—which in May ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention—denies that it has produced or used CW against southern rebels.

— *An investigation of the al-Shifa facility would be unlikely to yield conclusive CW evidence because of the time that has elapsed since the strike.*

The UN and relief organizations are increasingly concerned about reports from relief workers that chemical bombs were used against two rebel villages late last month. *The reports, however, are contradictory and probably exaggerated to serve the rebels' political agenda.*

— *An assessment of reported symptoms does not suggest the use of traditional lethal CW agents, but samples being analyzed by international organizations may yield more information on the agents used.*